THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a) and (b) The proposal for setting up an Inter-State Council under Article 263 o the Constitution under consideraf tion.

Chinese aid to Pakistan in the Nuclear Field

266. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA JAYAWANTRAO PATIL:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is Government's reaction to the Chinese Prime Minister, Li Pong's announcement during his recent visit to Pakistan that China would be providing a 300 MW nuclear power reactor to Pakistan: and

(b) whether Government propose to take up this issue with China in view of Pakistan going ahead with its nuclear weapons oriented programme?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) Government have been reports to this effect. Reportedly this reactor will be under IAEA safeguards.

(b) Government's concern regarding the weapons orientation of Pakistan's nuclear programme will known to all concerned, including the Chinese Government. Many other countries share this concern.

Security Measures for Prime Minister

267. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of Home AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister has decided to discard all security measures for himself; and

(b) if so, whether the special Protection Group (S.P.G.) and National Security Guards (N.S.G.) etc. are likely to be disbanded?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a) No, Sir. The Govt. has decided to withdraw ostentatious security.

(b) No; Sir.

Passport applications of ex-Members of Parliament

268. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that there is avoidable delay in Delhi in issuing passports; to ex- Members of Parliament;

(b) Whether police verification is required before issuing passports and if so, whether it is a fact that the police enquiry takes quite a long time;

(c) if so, what is the number of applications for fresh passports/ renewal/extensions received from ex-Members of Parliament and pending in Delhi as on date; and

(d) what steps are being taken for the prompt disposal of these applications?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) No Sir.

(b) Verification from the concerned State Government was hitherto required before issuing passports. The procedure has been reviewed and verification is no longer necessary in such cases. This should speed up issuance of Passports to. former Members of Parliament.

(c) No separate data is kept about applications for fresh passports or